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Urban Lodge 1196

The history of the Lodge has been compiled from various resources. The first recorded publication of the Lodge history is the booklet compiled by W.Bro. W H Rose who was a Master in 1931. Bro. Rose's compilation was published in 1937.

*W.Bro. Dr. Anil K Dhiri
Secretary (2006 >)*

" The History of Urban Lodge, 1867-1937 " *Compiled by W.Bro. W. H. Rose, L.G.R.*

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St. John's Gate [\[Back\]](#)

The history of the Urban Lodge opens at St. John's Gate, where the Lodge was consecrated. St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, as it is known today, was originally the entrance gate to the Priory of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

After the Order had been disbanded in 1540 by King Henry VIII, the premises were used as a Hunting Lodge, an Armoury, a storehouse and for similar uses, at one time sheltering such scenery as Shakespeare used for his plays, until, in 1731, it became the headquarters of the " Gentleman's Magazine."

In 1781, the Magazine shifted its headquarters to Fleet Street, and subsequently the Gate House became " The Old Jerusalem Tavern," to continue as such until, in 1887, the Order of St. John resumed occupation of the premises, which today are the Chancery of the Order.

THE URBAN CLUB [\[Back\]](#)

Operating under the pen-name of " Sylvanus Urban," various editors made the " Gentleman's Magazine " a force of some consequence. Dr. Johnson contributed to it, and David Garrick produced "The Mad Doctor" under its auspices.

When in 1781 the Magazine changed its headquarters to Fleet Street, it did not completely sever its connection with the Gate.

The vogue for Literary Debating Clubs resulted in the reigning " Sylvanus Urban " founding the " Urban Club," which used the Old Jerusalem Tavern as a rendezvous.

ASSOCIATIONS WITH DICKENS [\[Back\]](#)

When Messrs. Chapman and Hall, decided to accept Robert Seymour's sketches, illustrative of the "Nimrod Club," they had difficulty in finding an author to write a suitable vehicle.

Charles Dickens was eventually pressed to undertake the task, in spite of his protests that it was out of his line. There is reason to suppose that, the task once undertaken, with his characteristic thoroughness, he made up his mind to get some first-hand information on his subject, and in the course of his investigation, he encountered, Sylvanus Urban, the " Gentleman's Magazine," and the Urban Club; all of which offered fair targets for his satire.

The ascetic, somewhat gaunt Sylvanus, did not strike Mr. Chapman as good publicity, and possibly he did not enthuse on the project of giving prominence to another publisher in his work, and he consequently suggested the substitution of a personal acquaintance, whose chubby, jocund personality, the whole world has. proclaimed a lucky choice, but Urban Lodge loves to cherish the thought that our beloved Sylvanus (in real life, John Nichols) was the original inspiration, even though it had only been for the satire of such a genius as Charles Dickens. One further note of the close association with Dickens, is evidenced by the fact that the ballad "What are the wild waves saying?" written by Dr. Carpenter, the first W. Master of Urban Lodge, was dedicated to Charles Dickens.

FOUNDERS [\[Back\]](#)

Among the members of the Urban Club who were Masons, the idea of founding a Lodge took root, and on the 6th of June, 1866, a meeting was held at St. John's Gate attended by such Brethren, at which it was resolved :-

"That the following Brethren constitute a Provisional committee for the formation of a new Masonic Lodge, whose members shall consist of gentlemen chiefly connected with literature and the Arts, and

that : -

Bro. J. E. Carpenter, Mus.D	be the W/M designate.
Bro. R. H. Marsh	be the S/W designate
Bro. W. Sawyer	be the J/W designate
Bro. C. Braid	be the S/D designate.
Bro. J. Bruton and Bro. G. B. Snell."	

A second meeting was held on the 5th of April, 1867, at which the first business was to record regret for the decease of Bro. Bruton since the last meeting. This meeting agreed on the establishment of a new Lodge to be called the " Urban Lodge," to be held at the " Old Jerusalem Tavern," on the 4th Tuesday of every month, except the five summer months. The following Brethren agreed to fund the Lodge by subscribing five guineas each, to be repaid from subscriptions as they were received : -

Bro. J. E. Carpenter	Bro. R. H. Marsh	Bro. W. Sawyer
Bro. C. Braid	Bro. J. R. Ware	Bro. J. V. Fleury

At this meeting the necessary petition to Grand Lodge was drawn up and signed by the following Brethren as Founders and original Members : -

James Edward Carpenter	P.M. 284
Richard Henry Marsh	Lo. 151
William Sawyer	Lo. 733
Charles Braid	Lo. 733
James R. Ware	Lo. 733
Jn. V. de Fleury	Lo. 284
James Terry	P.M. 228

It was agreed that the recommendation of the petition, by the Lodge of United Strength, be solicited by the Committee.

At the next meeting, held on July 5th, 1867, it was agreed that future joining members pay a fee of two guineas, and Initiates, five guineas.

Bros. Carpenter and Sawyer were deputed to present the petition to Grand Lodge and report the result.

Bro. Sawyer was appointed Treasurer and Secretary *pro tem.* and a vote of thanks was moved to the Lodge of United Strength, for their support.

The fourth meeting was held on October 4th, 1867, when Bros. Marsh, Sawyer, Braid and Ware met under the Chairmanship of Bro. Carpenter the W/M designate, who reported the success of the petition and fixed the fourth Tuesday of October as the date of consecration. The W/M and Wardens of the Lodge of United Strength to be invited as guests.

The W/M designate was authorised to order a set of collars and jewels, and with the assistance of Bro. Braid, to hire an harmonium with a view to purchase.

On October 10th, 1867, at a further meeting, by-laws were considered and approved.

A sixth meeting was held, though was not recorded, at which the minutes of previous meetings were read and confirmed. Bro. Carpenter reported the engagement of Bro. J. Beckett as Tyler at 7s. 6d. a night, with 1s. 6d. for each Initiate; for a year. Bro. R. W. Little, P/M of Lo. 975, to perform the ceremony of Consecration.

CONSECRATION [\[Back\]](#)

The Consecration Ceremony took place at the Old Jerusalem Tavern on Tuesday, the 22nd of October, 1867. In addition to the Founders, 28 Brethren assembled. They included, the Grand Secretary, the Grand Steward, and two Provincial Grand Officers. The Ceremony of Consecration was eloquently performed by W. Bro. Robert Wentworth Little, and in the course of it, Bro. Marsh recited an Ode written for the occasion by Bro. W. Sawyer.

Bro. Terry then took the chair of K.S. and duly installed Bro. Joseph Edward Carpenter as the first W/M, with due form and ceremony. The W/M then appointed and invested : -

Bro. Marsh	as S/W.
Bro. Sawyer	as J/W
Bro. Terry	as Secretary
Bro. Braid	as S/D
Bro. Ware	as J/D
Bro. J. V. Fleury	as I.G and
Bro. Beckett	as Tyler

Bro. Carpenter undertook the duties of Treasurer for the ensuing year. Bro. Braid presented the Lodge with a very curious old Bible, which still graces our Pedestal. A set of working tools, cased in mahogany, was presented to the Lodge by W. Bro. R. Spencer, " In remembrance of Sylvanus Urban, after whom the Lodge was named." Those tools are the ones we still use. Bro. Little was elected an Honorary Member in recognition of his services in consecrating the Lodge.

BENEVOLENT FUND [\[Back\]](#)

At the October meeting, 1872, it was proposed that a Benevolent Fund be established with a subscription of 8s. per year per member, and this was carried unanimously in November, 1872.

In October, 1884, a committee was appointed to formulate rules for the fund. They presented their report in December of that year and confirmed the yearly subscription of 8s. per member, to be administered by a committee up to grants of £20, greater amounts to be referred to the Lodge.

At the January meeting, 1888, it was resolved, "That this fund be called the Urban Lodge Benevolent Fund," the object of which shall be to relieve the aged and indigent members of the Lodge, their widows and orphans, and for donations to the Masonic Institutes.

What happened thereafter is not clear, but in April of 1900, we find Bro. Manuel again proposing that every Brother contributes 8s. a year to the Benevolent Fund, but the proposal was withdrawn.

The tradition of benevolence is manifested by a donation of £100 to a Brother in December, 1901, and it is significant that a letter from a Mr. A. J. Besemer, whose father was the first Secretary of the Urban Club, was ordered to be left on the table in March, 1902, though another grant of £100 to a Brother in November, 1902, testifies that no lack of funds was the cause, though stock was realised to meet this last need, and a similar realisation was necessary to grant a further £100 to a Brother in 1903.

In October, 1909, we read of the abolition of the Benevolent Fund subscription, the funds no longer requiring it, and in February, 1922, we read that the amount invested in Consols was A300.

In December, 1922, the collecting box was instituted, and as we all know has continued as a permanent institution. In April, 1927, an arrangement was entered into, whereby the Westminster Bank became the Trustees for the Fund, which position it still holds.

CURIOSITIES OF PROCEDURE [\[Back\]](#)

At the March meeting, 1868, the Minutes record : " The W/M requested the withdrawal of the ballot for a proposed Initiate, for private reasons."

At the March meeting, 1875, the Secretary read a letter from Bro. F. E. Taylor resigning, and, the same not being couched in respectful terms, it was accepted with pleasure, and Bro. Taylor's name was at once struck off.

In March, 1876, appears the note: "The Lodge was called off at 8.30, from labour to refreshment; called on again at 11 and closed in due form." A similar note appears in November, 1876.

At the March meeting, 1877, attention was drawn to "The exclusion of all persons, except those professing Christianity, by certain Lodges in Germany."

On Tuesday, 26th March, 1878, Grand Lodge drew attention to action by the Grand Orient of France, in excluding references to T.G.A.O.T.U. from its ritual, and directed that no Brother who could not declare his faith properly founded, be received.

In March, 1882, it was re-told the Lodge could not support a petition to the Board of Benevolence, for a Bro. Haynes, and a suggestion that he be given LIO was superseded by a vote that A5 be given his wife. At this meeting also, a communication read from the secretary of the Free-masons' Club, Portsmouth, offered honorary membership to all Brethren visiting Portsmouth for the Fleet Review.

In the list of Honorary Members of Urban, Bro. Leymeyer's name appears, " He being willing to provide a piano for 12s. 6d. each evening, and declining to accept money for his services." An item appears for £3 7s. Piano Hire in that year's accounts.

In November, 1884, appears the note: "Mr. Burgess not attending his election was declared void," and this incident recurred at the December meeting, when the absence of a Mr. Myer had a similar result.

At the meeting held on November 9th, 1886, being Lord Mayor's Day, a telegram of "Hearty good wishes and congratulations," was sent to Bro. Reginald Hanson, the Lord Mayor.

In October, 1886, a Bro. Liebman brought the Lodge into correspondence with Prov. Grd. Lodge for Lancashire, by borrowing " 100 votes" without the authority of the Lodge. What these votes were is not clearly stated, but the Lodge repaid them with 128, and Bro. Liebman's name was erased from the Roll of the Lodge.

In April, 1894, a candidate declined to acknowledge the existence of a God. He was conducted out of the Lodge and his election cancelled.

In March, 1895, the Lodge expressed regret at the absence of Bro. Fairchild, Secretary. It broke his record of regular attendance since his appointment as Secretary ten years before.

The purchase was authorised in October, 1895, of the History of St. John's, Clerkenwell.

In April, 1911, it was offered that Bros. Milne and Stamper should receive their third degree in the Sub. Urban Lodge, but it did not materialise.

In October, 1914, Bro. Hofleck, a German, wrote tendering his resignation, which was accepted with regret, for the circumstances of the War which rendered it advisable, and in June, 1915, Grand Lodge issued a circular decreeing that Brethren of enemy birth refrain from attending Lodge during the continuance of the War. In October, 1915, one of the P/Ms asked to be placed on the country list, as a protest against holding dinners during the War.

At the November meeting, 1918, Brethren sang the National Anthem before opening Lodge.

DEVELOPMENT [\[Back\]](#)

The first Chaplain was Rev. Bro. Cosmo Reid Gordon, appointed in October, 1868, resigned April, 1870.

The reputation of the Urban Lodge and its domicile in Clerkenwell, had the result in November, 1870, that the Orient Lodge of Newark, N.J., U.S.A., invoked our assistance in succouring a Brother, resident in Clerkenwell.

Evidence of the literary tendency of the Urban Lodge in April, 1872, lies in the fact that the regular meeting could not be held for lack of members, it being April 23rd, the anniversary of Shakespeare's birthday, and an emergency meeting was held on April the 30th.

The first Steward of the Lodge was Bro. James Simpson, a special collar and jewel being authorised in February, 1873.

Bro. the Rev. Chas. Darby Reade was our next Chaplain, appointed in March, 1875.

In January, 1877, sanction was given for the purchase of necessary furniture, "The old furniture of the Lodge of Friendship being no longer available," and the bill for this in the Balance Sheet for the year was £657 13s. 6d.

At the first meeting at Freemasons' Hall on October 14th, 1879, it was agreed to alter the day of meeting from the 4th to the 2nd Tuesday, to meet the vacant accommodation available.

In January, 1880, the Tyler's remuneration was raised from 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d., and 10s. was voted as a Christmas box to the Hall Porter.

At the end of the first Minute Book, 1882, this note appears : -

"Agreement with Bro. Gay as to Dinners, etc."

Installation Banquet. Soup, Fish, Game and Dessert	6/- per head
Banquet with Fish	4/6 " "
Suppers	3/- " "
Hock and Claret per bottle	4/-
Champagne per bottle	8/-
Port per bottle	6/-
Sherry per bottle	5/-
Coffee per cup	6d.

At the February meeting, 1891, it was agreed that a copy of the book of Constitutions, be presented to each member.

In October, 1898, it was decided to substitute a meeting in December for that in May, but the first December meeting dispersed without opening Lodge, as the Brethren were not in a sufficiently harmonious frame of mind.

In March, 1899, it was resolved that for the sake of uniformity, evening dress should always be worn .at Lodge meetings. In November, 1908, a proposal was carried unanimously that a reception committee for prospective candidates be a *sine qua non*.

DOMICILE [\[Back\]](#)

Consecrated in the Old Jerusalem Tavern, housed in St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell, in 1867, the Lodge continued to meet there till 1879.

As early as November, 1874 the need for more commodious quarters was felt, but no move took place until, in August, 1879, the Order of St. John intimated that it required the rooms used for Lodge purposes, for the work of the Order, and the October meeting, 1879, was held at Freemasons' Hall, and at Freemasons' Hall it has been housed ever since, though in October, 1897, it is recorded that Lodge adjourned and the Brethren dined at the Holborn Restaurant, the G/M having granted a dispensation for Masonic clothing, and this incident repeats itself in February, 1906.

With the October meeting, 1931, the Lodge held its first meeting in the new Million Memorial buildings, where, at the date of publication, it still continues to meet.

EXCURSIONS [\[Back\]](#)

The first outing of the Lodge happened on the 20th August, 1872, when after Lodge, "The Brethren repaired to the Star and Garter, Kew, and sat down to an elegant repast."

On Tuesday, July 6th, 1875, an emergency meeting was held, which met at 12.30 p.m., and after propositions for four Initiates, was closed at 1.30 p.m., and the Brethren proceeded to Salthill, Slough, and partook of a summer banquet.

On July 6th, 1876, 32 Brethren and friends, in lieu of summer banquet, proceeded on the G.S.N.Co.'s steamer *Cupid*, to the Mouse lightship, having luncheon, tea and dinner on board, returning to London Bridge at 10 p.m. This little trip cost the Lodge £48 4s- 6d.

FEES [\[Back\]](#)

The Lodge started its career with fees fixed at £2 2s. for members, a similar joining fee and £5 5s. for Initiation.

At an Emergency Meeting held April 10th, 1872, it was proposed that these be raised to: Members £4 4s., Joining £4 4s. and Initiation £10 10s. This was modified at the October meeting to : Initiation £7

7s., Joining £3 3s., Members being left at £2 2s.

At the November meeting, 1873, we find "that the Visiting Fee shall be 10s. 6d., except Installation and Banquet nights, when it shall be 15s.," (but in February, 1874, we see a vote for "Supper nights to remain at 7s. 6d., Banquets and Installations to be **15s.**"

On the 24th April, 1877, fees were agreed, "up to 50

Members, Initiation £10 10s., Joining £5 5s., and beyond

that number, Initiation £15 15s. and Joining £10 10s., but

in October, 1878, this was altered to :-

Not exceeding

Fully Sub. Members	Initiation	Joining
50	£5 5s	£3 3s
60	£7 7s	£4 4s
70	£10 10s	£5 5s
>70	£15 15s	£7 7s.

On the evening of August 5th, 1879, when the decision was taken to move to Freemasons' Hall, it was also decided to raise the membership subscription to £3 3s.

In February, 1881, the Auditors drew attention to the fact that 14s. overhead expenditure left only 8s. 2d. each per night for banquets, and recommended increasing dues to £4 4s. or reducing banquets to four. The suggestion that the £4 4s. should include the 8s. Benevolent Fund subscription did not carry sufficient weight, and the banquets were reduced to four.

At the October Meeting, 1884, a suggestion for "one banquet at the Installation Meeting, and five suppers at 4s., exclusive of wine," was defeated, and in March, 1886, the subscription for country members was raised to ,£1 1s

The membership subscription was raised to £4 p. in December, 1889, and in October, 1896, the Installation fee was raised to £1 1s., and suppers to 10s. 6d., whilst in October, 1909, the membership subscription was further raised to £5 5s., and the Benevolent subscription was abolished, and in April, 1910, Initiation was raised from 5 to 7 guineas.

In April, 1921, a proposal was unanimously carried that the Initiation fee be £15 15s. and Joining £10 10s. when the Lodge numbers 50 members, and in October, 1924, a further increase to 25 and 15 guineas respectively when the number exceeded 75, was unanimously agreed to.

HONORARY MEMBERS [\[Back\]](#)

The first Honorary Member was, as already noted, Bro. Little, for his service in Consecrating the Lodge.

It was not till the January meeting in 1873 that Bro. Terry, who installed the first W/M, received similar honour, but in February, 1874, it was carried that his honorary position should carry full membership privilege.

In April, 1876, Bro. Blancherd, who was initiated in February, 1868, tendered his resignation, and was unanimously elected an Honorary Member.

In March, 1878, Bro. Marsh was elected with all the rights and privileges of membership.

At the March meeting, 1882, Bro. Lehmeier was made an Honorary Member for his services as Organist.

In December, 1904, Bro. C. Braid, one of the Founders of the Lodge, was unanimously elected an Honorary Member, and similar honour was accorded to Bro. Washington Haycock in March, 1906.

During 1910 the Lodge adopted as an Honorary Member a Bro. Ridley, member of a Calcutta Lodge, whilst on furlough in England.

Bro. Barnett, at whose rooms in 60, Haymarket, the Lodge of Instruction met for many years, was an Honorary Member during the latter years of his life, and in November, 1934, Bros. Vincent Stevens and W. J. Harris were both elected Honorary Members in recognition of their services to the Lodge.

IRREGULARITIES [\[Back\]](#)

In October, 1875, Grand Lodge issued a warning re the wearing of unauthorised Jewels, and in October, 1899, an injunction was issued against wearing clothing for purposes and places other than the Ritual and the Lodge.

In February, 1900, Grand Lodge warns Brethren against the Hiram Lodge of London, founded under the Orient of France.

In December, 1902, Grand Lodge prohibited drinking in Lodge, and presses for attention to get Licensing Laws.

In October, 1903, Grand Lodge protested against Press publication of Masonic proceedings.

In October, 1904, Grand Lodge repeats its prohibition of drinking in Lodge and the wearing of irregular

Jewels.

In April, 1910, Grand Lodge forbid Brethren to attend meetings of irregular bodies, and in October of the same year, Grand Lodge issued another proclamation repeating its previous warning and referring particularly to bodies which admitted women.

In October, 1913, Grand Lodge issued a warning against the promiscuous application for Warrants for new Lodges.

In January, 1914, Grand Lodge again warn Lodges against recognition of any one whose faith is not properly founded.

Further warnings by Grand Lodge against irregular

bodies appear from time to time, the latest at the moment having been in February, 1935, and in March of the same year, Grand Lodge issued a prohibition of sweepstakes under Masonic auspices.

LADIES' FESTIVALS [\[Back\]](#)

The first mention of these festivities appears in December, 1899, when a committee was proposed to consider the matter. The committee was empanelled in April, 1900, but gave up the task for lack of support, and it was not until 1921 that a festival actually matured. It was held at the Hotel Cecil on 22nd April, 1921, with dispensation from Grand Lodge permitting the wearing of regalia.

From that date the festival has been a yearly feature, and in February, 1926, a new note was introduced by an agreement to admit non-Masons.

LODGE OF INSTRUCTION [\[Back\]](#)

The first mention of a Lodge of Instruction was sanctioned by the Lodge in November, 1876, for the holding of a Lodge of Instruction under the warrant of the Urban Lodge, and in January, 1877, the note appears that the Lodge of Instruction will meet at the Three Bucks Tavern, Gresham Street, throughout the year at 6.30 p.m.

An official visit of Inspection is reported on October 22nd, 1878, with favourable comment on the conduct of the work.

No further mention appears until January, 1891, when Bro. Manuel is recorded as again proposing the formation of a Lodge of Instruction, and then silence until in November, 1898, the Lodge gave a donation of £10 10s. to the Lodge of Instruction.

The donation was, however, rescinded in March, 1899, and in November, 1902, it was agreed that the Lodge of Instruction be suspended *sine die*.

Where the next inspiration came from does not appear, though at the moment of writing, a meeting of Rehearsal, not registered with Grand Lodge as a Lodge of Instruction, still functions, and has been functioning for the last twenty years at least.

LONDON RANK [\[Back\]](#)

No history of the Urban Lodge could be considered complete which does not include the part which its members took in obtaining a recognition of long Masonic service for London Masons, equal to that achieved by Provincial Brethren in their attainment of Provincial Grand Rank.

The zeal and assiduity with which those "London " claims were advocated by our revered W. Brothers Manuel and Farrow, is evidenced by the fact that W. Bro. Manuel was the first President and W. Bro. Farrow the first Vice- President of the London Rank Association.

METROPOLITAN GRAND LODGES [\[Back\]](#)

The agitation which resulted in the Institution of London Rank in 1907, began several years before in a movement for Metropolitan Grand Lodges, with the object of giving London Masons the opportunity of achieving Grand Rank possessed by their Provincial Brethren, and London Rank did little to quieten this feeling, for, in 1914, Grand Lodge took a plebiscite on the subject.

MILLION MEMORIAL [\[Back\]](#)

This topic first gained mention in our minutes in April, 1920, when, after discussion, the matter was adjourned, and in October it was decided to support the proposal, but that no medals were deserved for so doing.

Further discussion in November led to another adjournment, and in December it was decided that " Urban " should be a Hallstone Lodge, a decision that has been loyally upheld by the Brethren of the Lodge.

NOTABLE BRETHERN [\[Back\]](#)

To select any Brother of Urban Lodge for special notice is no simple task in a circle of Masons whose zeal for the craft is a tradition.

Hence the names that follow are only quoted for the sake of circumstances associated with them.

Thus the name of Bro. Carpenter has an interest in that he was the first W/M of Urban Lodge in 1867.

Bro. Japhet Tickle earned distinction by being W/M of Urban, his Mother Lodge in 1876, and Founder

and first W/M of the Sub. Urban Lodge in 1877.

Bro. Robert Manuel, a member of the Bar, won fame as the champion of London Rank, and Bro. Farrow shared that glory with him.

Bro. Vincent Stevens compels mention for his unprecedented service. Initiated in October, 1901, he was appointed Organist in 1902, and year in and year out, he has charmed his way into the hearts of the Brethren who, for 35 years, have learned to consider him one of the traditions of Lodge. As early as February, 1904, an electric candelabra was presented to him as a token of appreciation of his invaluable services voluntarily rendered to the Lodge.

Two years ago the Lodge unanimously elected him an Honorary Member, but he still remains an active member.

The name of Dowsing demands mention in our list, if only for the reason that a father and two sons in one family were members. Bro. S. Dowsing, Sen., was initiated in 1876, and Bros. Alfred and H. A. Dowsing in 1899 and 1900 respectively.

The zeal of this latter brother is evinced by his having been founder of Westminster Bank Lodge No. 3647 and Ladywell Lodge No. 4380. He was also S/W of Temple Mark Lodge No. 322 and P/Z of Anglo-Colonial Chapter NO. 3175.

Bro. Noel Stevens earned distinction as being the only member, not an officer, to be present at five consecutive meetings, and Bro. C. Stamper occupied that position on one evening.

Five other Brethren deserve mention as having achieved the honour of filling the chair on two occasions. They were :

Bro. J. E. Carpenter, 1867-1868; Bro. P. B. Hollick, 1897-1918; Bro. P. Allison, 1898-1899; Bro. H. J. Paxton, 1921-1932; Bro. F. Miller 1926-1933

PRESENTATIONS [\[Back\]](#)

Presentations in our history began at our Consecration Meeting, when Bro. Braid presented the Lodge with a "curious old Bible." This Bible, which has since been restored, is still the volume on which our Members are pledged.

The mahogany case of working tools, presented to the Lodge by Bro. Spencer, also at the Consecration Meeting is still in current use.

From 1867 we pass on to April, 1873, when on the conclusion of his service as Secretary, Bro. Terry, who has also acted as Installing Master at our Consecration, was made an Honorary Member and presented with "an elegant tea and coffee service, together with a tray."

In January, 1877, Bro. Carpenter presented the Lodge with "a handsome silk flag with No. of Lodge and Emblem of the Order."

At the December meeting, 1891, Bro. Manuel presented the Lodge with "a very handsome Album to contain photographs of members of the Lodge."

In March, 1897, the Lodge presented an engrossed and framed copy of the Lodge Resolution thanking Bro. Mountford for his services in extracting the Lodge from financial trouble.

The Ivory Gavel we still possess was presented to the Lodge by Bro. Alliston at the conclusion of his second year as W/M in February, 1900, and at the same meeting the new W/M, Bro. Haddon Davy, presented the Lodge with the Banner it still uses. In March, 1908, we read : "A handsome silver tea service was presented to Bro. Joseph Tickle, P/M and Father of our Lodge, which had been subscribed for by the Brethren."

In February, 1927, W. Bro. V. Stevens, the Lodge Organist, presented the Lodge with a volume of his Craft Music, which was gratefully accepted by the Lodge.

In October, 1934, a Christening bowl and spoon, subscribed for by members of the Lodge, was presented to the W/M Bro. Davidson, on the birth of his first-born daughter.

SUB. URBAN LODGE [\[Back\]](#)

The Urban Lodge has given support to the petitions for the formation of the other Lodges from time to time.

The first of these was the Burdett Coutts Lodge in 1869.

On October 19th, 1877, at the Abercorn Arms Hotel, Great Stanmore, Middx., the Sub. Urban Lodge No. 1702, was consecrated with Bro. Japhet Tickle as W/M, and although he was P/M of Urban at the same time, no mention of the fact appears in Urban Minutes.

This Lodge still exists and still meets at the Abercorn Arms, Stanmore, and although other members of "Urban" followed Bro. Japhet Tickle's lead in its early days, it rarely comes into contact with us now, but in April, 1911, Bros. Milne and Stamper received an offer of their 3rd degree in Sub. Urban, though this did not materialise.

URBAN CHAPTER [\[Back\]](#)

On Tuesday, 27th March, 1877, Dr. Carpenter proposed and Bro. Pearson seconded "That it is desirable that a Royal Arch Chapter should be attached to the Lodge," and the Chapter was Consecrated on March 10th, 1877.

The Founders of the Chapter were : -

- Bro. J. E. Carpenter, Mus.Doc., Z.
- Bro. R. H. Pearson, H.
- Bro. J. Pearson, J.
- Bro. C. J. Watson
- Bro. W. F. C. Montrie
- Bro. G. J. Kain
- Bro. D. W. King
- Bro. S. Wilkins
- Bro. J. Terry

and it still draws staunch supporters from Urban Lodge.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT [\[Back\]](#)

Indebtedness is freely admitted and the warmest thanks are offered to the following Authorities for the items of information which are welded in this Romance: -

- The Grand Secretary.
- Brethren of the Urban Lodge.
- The Library of the British Museum.
- The Cripplegate Library.
- Messrs. Chapman & Hall.
- The Dickens Fellowship.
- Messrs. W. & G. Foyle.
- The Editor, " The Freemason."
- The Editor, " The Freemasons7 Chronicle."
- The Guildhall Library.
- The Secretary of the London Rank Association.
- The City Remembrancer.
- The Stationers Company.
- The St. Brides Institute.
- Secretary and Librarian of The Order of St. John.
- The Secretary of 'the Sub. Unban Lodge.
- The Family of " Urban."
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